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U.S. Department of Energy to Provide up to \$2.4 Million to Advance Solar Energy in 12 U.S. Cities

DOE Selects Twelve Solar America Cities to advance President Bush's Solar America Initiative

DENVER, CO – U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman today announced the selection of San José, CA as a Solar America City. San José, along with 11 other cities across the country selected as Solar America Cities, was chosen for its commitment and comprehensive approach to the deployment of solar technologies and the development of sustainable solar infrastructures. DOE will invest up to \$2.4 million in these projects, which further President Bush's Solar America Initiative (SAI), aimed at making electricity from solar photovoltaics cost-competitive with conventional electricity by 2015. Combined with industry cost share and funding from each city, total investment in all twelve cities is estimated at \$12.1 million. Secretary Bodman made the announcement while delivering keynote remarks at the New Frontiers in Energy Summit 2008 in Denver.

"These Solar America Cities aim to jumpstart integration of solar power and encourage other cities across the nation to follow suit," Secretary Bodman said. "With the President's leadership, the Energy Department is working aggressively to make clean, abundant and affordable solar energy the norm, and no longer an 'alternative' source of energy. The innovative programs already underway in each city will help us raise the bar of what's possible, and will help cities and towns across America harness the tremendous potential of the sun."

"I am delighted that San José has been honored as a Solar America City," said Mayor Chuck Reed. "This honor recognizes our history of innovation and environmental stewardship, through which San José will become the world's center of innovation in clean, green technologies like solar energy. Not only are we working to help our innovators create new businesses and new jobs, San José will use these technologies to reduce the City's own operating and maintenance costs."

Last year, San José, the nation's tenth largest city, implemented *San José's Green Vision*, which sets 10 ambitious goals for environmental protection and economic development. Solar is a key component of the 15-year Green Vision, which envisions:

- Creating 25,000 Clean Tech jobs.
- Installing 100,000 solar roofs (1/10 of Gov. Schwarzenegger's 1 million solar roofs for California initiative).

- Reducing per capita electricity use by half.
- Moving to 100 percent renewable energy.
- Installing solar on city buildings and retrofitting facilities to save municipal costs.

San José already is a leader in solar technology innovation, with leading corporations such as SunPower, SoloPower, Nanosolar, Fat Spaniel, and others headquartered here.

Other cities designated as Solar America Cities, which will each receive \$200,000 from DOE to integrate a variety of solar energy technologies throughout the city, include: Houston, TX; Knoxville, TN; Milwaukee, WI; Minneapolis & St. Paul, MN; Orlando, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Sacramento, CA; San Antonio, TX; San José, CA; Santa Rosa, CA; and Seattle, WA.

In addition to investing a total of up to \$2.4 million (Fiscal Year 2008), DOE will also provide hands-on assistance from technical experts to help cities integrate solar technologies into energy planning, zoning and facilities; streamline local regulations and practices that affect solar adoption by residents and businesses; present solar financing options; and promote solar technology among residents and local businesses through outreach, curriculum development, and incentive programs. Technical assistance is estimated at \$3 million (Fiscal Years 2008-2009), subject to appropriations from Congress.

Cities selected are geographically diverse and have varying degrees of solar resources and experience with solar technologies. Each city will adopt a variety of approaches to building up their solar infrastructure and deploying cutting-edge technologies, which include solar water heating, photovoltaics – a technology which turns sunlight into electricity, and concentrating solar power - large-scale solar thermal technology.

The development of solar energy technology is integral to the President's Advanced Energy Initiative (AEI), which seeks to change the way we power our homes, offices and vehicles by increasing the use of clean, renewable technologies. Awards announced today build upon the \$5.4 million in financial and technical assistance awarded to the thirteen Solar America Cities selected in 2007, including: Ann Arbor, MI; Austin, TX; Berkeley, CA; Boston, MA; Madison, WI; New Orleans, LA; New York City, NY; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; Salt Lake City, UT; San Diego, CA; San Francisco, CA; and Tucson, AZ, bringing the total number of Solar America Cities to twenty-five.

For more information on DOE's Solar America Cities Program, visit: www.SolarAmericaCities.energy.gov

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